



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2006

GOVERNOR RELL TO SPEAK AT THE 57TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY LUNCHEON

HARTFORD, Conn. --- Gov. M. Jodi Rell will address Connecticut service members at the 57th Annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, Conn. on Friday, May 19, 2006, at 12:00 noon.

Brig. Gen. (P) Richard P. Formica, Director of Force Management for the Army will be the keynote speaker for this year's luncheon. Formica began his officer career in 1977 as a forward observer for Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, Germany. He recently was the Commanding General, III Corps Artillery at Ft. Hood, Texas, the Joint Fire with duty as Effects Coordinator and Commanding General, Force Field Artillery Multi-National Corps-Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq and the Commanding General, III Corps Artillery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He is a distinguished and decorated Army officer with many awards and decorations that include; the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

The Armed Forces Day Luncheon is an opportunity to recognize the men and women who serve in all the branches of services in the state of Connecticut.

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During this event, a member from each branch of the Armed Services will be recognized for their distinguished service. Formica will present the awards along with Gov. Rell and Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard.

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense.

This year's theme is, "America Supports You."

This event is open to media.

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